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The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts in the fiscal year 1917 was held in their office at 1729 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., on July 14, 1916. The following members were present:

- Mr. Moore, the Chairman,
- Mr. Olmsted,
- Mr. Hastings,
- Mr. Gilbert,
- Mr. Blashfield,
- Mr. Anderson,
- Mr. Adams;

also Colonel Wm. W. Harts, U. S. Army, their Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a. m., and immediately proceeded to the business before it.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The minutes of the preceding meeting, held May 15 to 17, 1916, were presented by the Secretary and approved.

2. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERK: The Commission authorized the appointment of a temporary stenographer and typewriter at the rate of \$900 per annum for a period not to exceed six months, the appointment to take effect June 30, 1916, since which time such an employee has been performing services.

3. ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS: The Commission adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That to conform with the requirements of Section 3679 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, the funds appropriated for the Commission of Fine Arts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, be, and they are hereby, made available at any time during the year, and that no special allotments by quarters be made.

4. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: Colonel Harts explained that Congress has

1917 was held in their office at 152 W. 12th Street, N. Y. City.

On July 14, 1918, the following persons were present:

Mr. Moore, the Chairman.

Mr. Glavin.

Mr. Hendon.

Mr. Clegg.

Mr. Egan.

Mr. Ladd.

Mr. Nichols.

Also present Mr. E. J. Connelley, Mr. J. J. Hendon, and Mr. J. J. Hendon.

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 P. M., and Mr. Moore presided.

At the meeting Mr. Moore said:

1. The first item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on the

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3. The third item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on the

4. The fourth item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on the

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6. The sixth item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on the

7. The seventh item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on the

8. The eighth item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on the

9. The ninth item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on the

10. The tenth item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on the

appropriated only \$6,000 for the expenses of the Commission for the fiscal year 1917, which was insufficient to carry them through. He stated that it was his intention, if the Commission approved, to submit an estimate for an additional sum of \$5,000 to Congress to be included in the urgent deficiency bill. The Commission agreed to this.

5. PROPOSED KEY BRIDGE ACROSS THE POTOMAC AT GEORGETOWN: Colonel C. A. F. Flagler, United States engineer officer in charge of the designing and construction of the proposed Key Bridge across the Potomac at Georgetown which is to take the place of the present condemned Aqueduct Bridge, submitted preliminary sketches for the new bridge for the consideration of the Commission, and requested a recommendation as to the location and design of that structure. General Black, Chief of Engineers, United States Army, also appeared during the discussion, and requested the Commission to give him more assistance with respect to the architect to be appointed by making a more definite recommendation as to the proper choice. Colonel Flagler placed before the Commission a location plan, showing the general layout of the area where the bridge is to be constructed, on which he had placed several lines, marked A, B and C respectively, indicating desirable alternative locations for the structure. Lines A and C terminated on the Georgetown side at 34th street, while line B terminated on that side at 35th street. Colonel Flagler stated they originally favored the 34th street terminal but certain problems they encountered on that line, one of which was the necessity of condemning the plant of the Crystal Ice Company which meant an undesirable and impossible outlay of funds, they now favored the 35th street terminal as indicated by line B.

Accompanied by Colonel Flagler the members of the Commission later in the

day inspected the present conditions in the areas on the Georgetown side affected. They informed Colonel Flagler that they saw no objection to the adoption of the line for the bridge favored by him and approximately as indicated by line B on the location plan before them, nor to the spacing of the piers approximately as shown on a small photographic sketch he had placed before them. They emphasized that they regarded the problems presented by the location and construction of this bridge, particularly in the handling of the approach on the Georgetown end, as offering opportunities of a very high interest architecturally, especially when considering desirable and proper terminals to meet both traffic and artistic requirements.

As the Chief of Engineers had personally requested a specific recommendation from the Commission as to the choice of a competent architect, the Commission after deliberation during which numerous architects were discussed, unanimously decided to recommend Mr. Nathan Wyeth of this city. In making this selection they were guided by the expressed desire of the engineer officer that a local man be employed. For formal report, see Exhibit A.

6. MEADE MEMORIAL: At eleven o'clock the Commission met, by appointment, Messrs. Bassett and Simon of Philadelphia, and Mr. Charles Grafly, architects and sculptor respectively, engaged by the Meade Memorial Commission to design the proposed Meade Memorial to be located in the Botanic Garden area, and Mr. John B. Patrick of Harrisburgh, representing the Meade Memorial Commission. These gentlemen submitted seven alternative studies for the memorial which were presumably based upon criticisms and suggestions offered by the Commission on a design submitted at the preceding meeting. None of these designs was acceptable and all were disapproved. For the formal report containing in detail the criticisms of the Commission see Exhibit B, attached.

7. LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR RAWLINS SQUARE: Colonel Harts placed before the Commission a small-scale model prepared by Mr. Glenn Brown, architect for the Alfred Noble Memorial committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers, which indicated his ideas for the treatment of Rawlins Square so as to form a suitable setting for the Noble Memorial Fountain to be erected there. Mr. Olmsted was appointed a committee with power in this matter. After an inspection on the ground later in the day he said that the plan presented by the model disregarded both existing trees and grades, and that before approval should be given an alternative plan should be submitted recognizing these conditions. Suggestions were also made that the outline of the larger basin shown be simplified, and that the possibility of locating the fountain to the south, instead of at the crossing, of the intersecting diagonal lines shown be considered in a restudy. For Mr. Olmsted's full report, see Exhibit C.

8. REVISED DESIGN FOR KEY MEMORIAL AT FORT MC HENRY, BALTIMORE: Colonel Harts, as personal representative of the Secretary of War in the construction of the Francis Scott Key monument at Baltimore, Maryland, submitted a revised design of the accepted model for that memorial in which the landscape treatment and architectural setting, and the base for the main figure, had been restudied in conformity with the recommendations of the Jury of Award. Mr. Olmsted was appointed a committee with power to attend to this matter. After consultation with Mr. Niehaus, the sculptor, who was present, he recommended approval of the revised design for the base and setting, subject to restudy of an encircling stone seat shown with a view to making it more robust. He also recommended approval of the revised plan for the setting of the monument subject to question in regard to several landscape problems which he pointed out to Mr. Niehaus and which are outlined in detail in Mr. Olmsted's report attached hereto as Exhibit D.

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9. MONTROSE PARK: Colonel Harts next submitted a contour plan of the entire area of Montrose Park, the first that has been placed before the Commission, showing the relation of the park to the proposed Rock Creek Parkway, the elimination of some of the landscape features now existing, and the proposed location of the new park lodge (P.B & G. Plan No. 324.30). Mr. Olmsted, a committee of one with power, later in the day went over the ground with Mr. Diggs, landscape designer on Colonel Harts' staff, and made a number of suggestions which will be followed out. These suggestions are indicated on the memorandum attached hereto as Exhibit E.

10. TEMPORARY TREATMENT FOR LARGE FOUNTAIN BEYOND INLET BRIDGE, WEST POTOMAC PARK: Colonel Harts submitted three alternative studies, marked respectively A, B and C showing what was to be a temporary treatment for the large fountain beyond the Inlet Bridge in West Potomac Park, which has been prepared in the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. The Commission considered sketch marked A, the best and approved it. (P.B & G Plan No. 332.73)

11. POWER HOUSE TO BE ERECTED NEAR CHAIN BRIDGE IN CONNECTION WITH GREAT FALLS WATER POWER PROJECT: Colonel Flagler, in charge of the local United States Engineer Office, submitted an elevation for a power and intake house proposed for erection near Chain Bridge in connection with the proposed Great Falls Water Development project, which formed the basis of the report in House Document 1400-62-3. In reviewing this elevation, Colonel Flagler gave as his opinion that "it would be a crime to mar the view with such structures as are shown in the document, and which are of the style of architecture prevalent in southern cotton mills on water power development." He added that, in asking for the opinion of the Commission in the matter, he was submitting a revised design prepared in

his office in which an effort was made to follow the lines of Norman Castle architecture from examples obtained from the Library of Congress. He concluded that, while it was doubtful if work will begin on this project for a number of years, his object in preparing this sketch was principally to have on file in his office, for the guidance of succeeding engineer officers, a design that will necessarily bring to the attention of such officers the advisability of providing a structure in accord with the surroundings, for otherwise the matter might be overlooked and estimates prepared on the first plan referred to.

The Commission disapproved both designs, and recommended that at the proper time the appointment of a capable architect be made, with instructions to design a power house in the classic style, thus bearing the same stamp as other nearby public work but with avoidance of stiffness and undue formality. See Exhibit F, for full report.

12. IN RE DIMENSIONS AND DESIGN OF MONUMENTS TO BE ERECTED IN ARLINGTON CEMETERY: The Commission next considered the request of the War Department for an expression whether the Commission would care to modify previous recommendations made by them with respect to dimensions and finish of monuments to be erected in Arlington Cemetery so that, instead of permitting no "rock-faced" surfaces, a medium "rock-faced" surface would be permitted, and that instead of limiting the heights of monuments to four feet this limit be extended to five feet. The Commission, after some discussion, decided to adhere to its former recommendations. See Exhibits G and H for the inquiry of the War Department and the reply from the Commission.

13. BUCHANAN MEMORIAL FOR MERIDIAN HILL: After a short interval for lunch, served at one o'clock in Colonel Harts' private office, the Commission left the office to make an inspection with Colonel Flagler of the various terminals considered in Georgetown in connection with the proposed new Key Bridge.

Returning to the office at 2.30 o'clock they met Mr. Lawrason Riggs of Baltimore, Messrs. Beecher and Wyatt, architects, and Hans Schuler, sculptor, regarding a design they had submitted, in model form, which was said to be the result of conforming to the various suggestions made from time to time by the Commission. The design for the main composition was approved as shown in the model, subject to a few minor modifications that were pointed out at the time, and this approval included the design for the basin which the statue of Buchanan is to face. The Commission, however, expressly excluded the scheme for the treatment of the entrance as shown on the plan submitted, this being not at all satisfactory. See Exhibit I for formal letter.

14. TALLAPOOSA, ALABAMA, MONUMENT. The Commission was notified during the meeting that, in accordance with their recommendations, all designs received in the Tallapoosa, Alabama, competition had been rejected by the War Department, and that it was the intention of the Department to entrust the execution of the monument to Charles Keck, sculptor, of New York, one of three sculptors originally recommended by the Commission as competent for this work since at that time it had been decided that the competition was to be sculptural. The Department asked the Commission to give a general description of a type of monument they would consider suitable for erection on this site. During the ensuing discussion a rough pencil sketch of such a design was made and sent over to the Department. In transmitting this sketch, suggestions were also made that the monument should

consist simply of rough marble, and that any inscriptions should be cut in incised letters on the face of the rough block of stone, no bronze tablets or letters to be attached to the monument.

15. PLAN FOR WEST POTOMAC PARK: Colonel Harts stated that Mr. Clarence Howard had practically completed his plan for the treatment of the area lying between the Washington Monument and the Potomac, and between North and South B street, and that it was in shape to be inspected by the Commission. The Commission recommended acceptance of the plan, with the understanding that Mr. Howard was to resubmit it at the next meeting and make any modifications or changes which the Commission may find desirable at that time.

16. SUCCESSORS TO MR. BLASHFIELD AND MR. ANDERSON. Colonel Harts informed the members that the President had requested that they suggest to him the names of the men they desire as successors to Mr. Blashfield and Mr. Anderson whose terms of service were expiring under limitation. After a number of informal ballots, the Commission unanimously selected as their choice Mr. J. Alden Weir to succeed Mr. Blashfield, and Mr. Charles A. Platt to succeed Mr. Anderson, and requested Colonel Harts to convey these names to the President after first having secured the consent of these gentlemen to serve.

There being no further business before the meeting, they adjourned at four p. m. subject to the call of the Chairman.

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Wm. A. Harts
WILLIAM A. HARTS

Secretary of the Commission

Charles A. Platt



Washington, D. C.,
July 17, 1916.

Colonel:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting held last Friday, gave careful consideration to the preliminary sketches for the proposed Key Bridge across the Potomac River at Georgetown, referred to them for recommendation with your letter of July 13, 1916, and also, after consultation with you and the Chief of Engineers during the meeting, discussed with you on the ground the various problems involved.

They see no objection to the adoption of the line for the bridge favored by you and approximately as indicated by line B on the blueprint location plan submitted, nor to the spacing of the piers approximately as shown on the photographic rendering placed before them. They regard the problems presented by this bridge, particularly by the approach on the Georgetown end, as offering opportunities of very high interest architecturally, especially when considering desirable and proper terminals to meet both artistic and traffic requirements. The high necessity of employing the best architectural talent available is therefore emphasized.

During the discussion the Chief of Engineers requested a definite recommendation as to the architect to be engaged in connection with the designing of this structure. If it has been decided to confine the choice to a local man, as the Commission understand, they unanimously recommend Mr. Nathan Wyeth.

The Commission are anxious to be of every possible assistance in this matter, and to cooperate with you to make this structure a credit to the National Capital.

By direction of the Commission.

Very truly, yours,

W. W. BENT

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Lieut. Col. C. A. F. Flagler,
Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army,
In charge, United States Engineer Office,
Washington, D. C.

ABC - Inclosures.

A 13

Washington, D. C.,
July 17, 1918.

Colonel:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting held last Friday, gave careful consideration to the preliminary sketches for the proposed Jay Bridge across the Potomac River at Georgetown, referred to them for recommendation with your letter of July 15, 1918, and also, after consultation with you and the Chief of Engineers during the meeting, discussed with you on the ground the various problems involved.

They are so anxious to see adoption of the plan for the bridge tower by you and approximately as indicated by line 1 on the plan of location plan submitted, not to the spacing of the piers approximately as shown on the photo-graphic rendering placed before them. They regard the plan as offering opportunities of very high interest architecturally, especially when considering desirable and proper terminals to meet both military and traffic requirements. The high necessity of employing the best architectural talent available is emphasized.

During the discussion the Chief of Engineers requested a definite recommendation as to the architect to be engaged in connection with the designing of this structure. If it has been decided to confine the choice to a local man, as the Commission suggested, they unanimously recommend Mr. John Smith.

The Commission are anxious to be of every possible assistance in this matter, and to cooperate with you to make this structure a credit to the National Capital.

By direction of the Commission.

Very truly, yours,

W. W. B. B. B.

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Georgetown and Washington, D. C.

Lieut. Col. C. A. F. Flagler,
Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army,
In charge, United States Engineer Office,
Washington, D. C.

ABC - Inclosures.

A

July 24, 1916.

My dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts regret extremely that after repeated conferences with representatives of the Meade Memorial Commission, in both Washington and Lafrsburg, and after patiently explaining the accepted and usual prerequisites to obtaining a work of art, this Commission has been unable to impress upon that body an adequate comprehension of the problem which they are called upon to solve - namely, to secure a memorial that shall at once express the place of General Meade in the history of this nation and at the same time constitute an appropriate contribution of the great State of Pennsylvania to the adornment of the city of Washington.

None of the sketches presented at the meeting of this Commission on July 14, could by any possibility produce such results. Therefore we are constrained by our duty under the law to express disapproval of all of the designs presented and to ask for an entire restudy of the project.

At the risk of repetition we herewith restate the elements of the problem, with the request that the requirements be met in any further studies that may be presented.

First: The memorial should take a sculptural rather than an architectural form. Sculpture should predominate; architecture should be subordinate. This does not mean that the architectural portions of the work should be less vital than the sculpture; but it does mean that the architecture should be used to enhance rather than to compete with the sculpture, and that the two should combine to produce one complete and harmonious creation. That this requirement is not unusual is shown in the case of the Grant Memorial nearby where the same demand was made, and the architecture was subordinated to the sculpture.

B

July 24, 1916.

My dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, created by the Act of March 3, 1909, and continued by the Act of March 3, 1915, and the Act of March 3, 1916, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. and in reply to inform you that the Commission has been unable to impress upon that body an adequate comprehension of the problem which they are called upon to solve - namely, to secure a memorial that shall at once express the place of General Meade in the history of this nation and at the same time constitute an appropriate contribution of the Great State of Pennsylvania to the adornment of the city of Washington.

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Second: The value of the architecture will be attained only by a successful study of form, properly related to the sculpture and to the surroundings.

Third: The sculpture should express that combination of qualities which made General Meade a great military leader. The accidental and unessential should give place to the permanent and enduring qualities. The memorial is intended to last while time endures. Therefore the sculpture should possess preeminently the essential qualities of the man; and accessories should be subordinated to produce this result. Portraiture is essential in so far, and only in so far, as it tends to express these qualities when grouped in an individual.

Fourth: The memorial should be related to landscape as already fixed on the plans prepared for the development of the entire area, a portion of which is included in the immediate surroundings of the memorial. The particular site was selected because it was intended that the landscape setting and the memorial should get value one from the other. They are two parts of one whole; and since the general treatment of the landscape is fixed, the memorial must conform to its essential features.

Fifth: The central, dominating position in the general area at the head of the Mall is occupied by the Grant Memorial, the most considerable work of sculpture erected by the Government. The Meade Memorial therefore should be related to the Grant Memorial in such a manner that the two will be complementary and not competitive. This is a point which the artist should recognize as one of the requirements to which he must conform indeed, but by conforming with which he gets added strength and force.

Sixth: It is unnecessary in an expression of the character and abilities of General Meade to introduce any element that shall call attention to those differences which brought about the civil strife which gave to him opportunity for showing those abilities.

The failure thus far to secure an adequate and suitable design emphasizes the necessity of entrusting so important a work to designers of the highest experience and capacity in monumental work. Few problems of design for monumental work in Washington have offered such difficulties and demanded such perception and experience as does this memorial to General Meade.

This Commission again express their desire to be of service to the Meade Memorial Commission in the common endeavor to secure a work of art in all ways adequate to meet the natural and reasonable expectations of the Congress of the United States in providing the site and of the State of Pennsylvania in bearing the expense of erecting the proposed memorial.

By direction of the Commission:

Very truly, yours,

WM. W. HART

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. M. G. Brumbaugh,
Chairman, The Meade Memorial Commission
of the State of Pennsylvania,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

Memorandum for Colonel Harts with reference to plan for the treatment of
Rawlins Square.

The Commission of Fine Arts at their last meeting appointed Mr. Olmsted a Committee with power on the Rawlins Square Monument plan. After discussing the model prepared by Mr. Glenn Brown for the treatment of this reservation, and after personal inspection on the ground, he disapproves the plan for the following reasons:

"The plan is logical in recognizing by straight paths the functional short cut lines from corner to corner, one of which corresponds to the axis of New York Avenue; and in developing as a setting for the memorial a central open space upon the north and south axis of the square corresponding with the axis of the Interior Department Office Building. In following out this straight-forward logical scheme the plan proposes broad avenues of trees flanking each of the diagonal walks and locates the memorial at the common intersection of the diagonals with a central axial space. If the ground were now wholly without trees, the proposed diagonal avenues would offer a reasonable planting scheme, although the relation between the width of the avenues, the width of the central open space and the width of the triangles left between the avenues is not particularly happy and gives rise to a difficult problem in the treatment of the interior of the triangles. The wedge shaped plantations within these triangles indicated on the model are to me wholly unsuggestive of anything that would look well in execution.

But in fact the square contains a large number of good-sized trees, many of which seem upon a very hurried inspection to be vigorous and handsome of foliage and which would practically all have to be swept away in order to carry out the plan as presented. I doubt whether the sacrifice of these trees would be justified by the excellence of the plan submitted and I am clear that the Commission of Fine Arts should not approve a plan involving this sacrifice until we have before us as an alternative a plan showing what can be done upon the assumption of utilizing the good existing trees for all they are worth.



Memorandum for Colonel Harbo with reference to plan for the treatment of

Rawlins Square.

The Commission of Fine Arts at their last meeting appointed Mr. Olmsted a Committee with power on the Rawlins Square Monument plan. After discussing the model prepared by Mr. Olmsted for the treatment of this reservation, and after personal inspection on the ground, he disapproves the plan for the following reasons:

"The plan is logical in recognizing by straight lines the functional layout

and lines from corner to corner, one of which corresponds to the axis of New

York Avenue; and in developing as a setting for the memorial a central open space

between the north and south axis of the square corresponding with the axis of the

Interior Department Office Building. In following out this straight-forward logical

scheme the plan proposes broad avenues of trees flanking each of the diagonal walls

and locates the memorial at the common intersection of the diagonals with a

central axial space. If the ground were now wholly without trees, the proposed

diagonal avenues would offer a reasonable planting scheme, although the relation

between the width of the avenues, the width of the central open space and the width

of the triangles left between the avenues is not particularly happy and gives rise

to a difficult problem in the treatment of the interior of the triangles. The

trapezoidal shaped plantations within these triangles indicated on the model are no more

wholly unobjectionable of anything that would look well in execution.

But in fact the square contains a large number of good-sized trees, many of

which seem upon a very hurried inspection to be vigorous and handsome of foliage and

which would practically all have to be swept away in order to carry out the plan as

presented. I doubt whether the sacrifice of these trees would be justified by the

excellence of the plan submitted and I am clear that the Commission of Fine Arts

should not approve a plan involving this sacrifice until we have before us as an

alternative a plan showing what can be done upon the assumption of retaining the

good existing trees for all they are worth.

Mr. Gilbert raised a question as to whether it might not be best because of the importance of the diagonals as traffic lines not to interrupt them by the fountain and its large basin, but rather to set these a little south of the intersection and toward the further end of the central open space facing both the Interior Department buildings, and the lines of traffic through the square. I was not very favorably impressed by this suggestion when it was made, but examination of the site shows that the square has even more cross slope from north to south than I had supposed when we discussed this point at the commission meeting, a condition which is wholly ignored on the model before us. There are very serious difficulties in working out surfaces of satisfactory form where a necessarily level basin of considerable size is set down at the intersection of sloping diagonals.

The difficulties are not necessarily insuperable but they so frequently result in a botch that it is unsafe to approve any plan involving them before the proposed solution is worked out with some precision as to grades to make sure that it is acceptable. These difficulties add to the force of Mr. Gilbert's suggestion that it might be better to place the fountain south of the intersecting diagonals, in which case the ground about it could be graded up to a level and the drop to natural surface at the south side of the square masked by back-ground planting.

Even if the location of the fountain is changed, I believe it would be better to simplify the outline of the basin, and certainly if it is kept in the line of travel at the intersection of the diagonal paths, the form ought to be very much simplified.

I suggest that the problem of redesigning the square in connection with the Noble Memorial be restudied with the above criticism in mind.

As a basis for such a study the map of the square which shows existing trees should be supplemented by exact figures of elevation showing the levels of the

Mr. Gilbert raised a question as to whether it might not be best because of the importance of the diagonals as traffic lines not to interrupt them by the fountain and its large basin, but rather to set aside a little south of the intersection and toward the further end of the central open space facing both the Interior Department buildings, and the lines of traffic through the square. I was not very favorably impressed by this suggestion when it was made, but examination of the site shows that the square has even more cross slope from north to south than I had supposed when we discussed this point at the commission meeting, a condition which is wholly ignored on the model before us. There are very serious difficulties in working out surfaces of satisfactory form where a necessarily level basin of considerable size is set down at the intersection of sloping diagonals. The difficulties are not necessarily insuperable but they so frequently result in a batch that it is unwise to approve any plan involving them before the proposed solution is worked out with some precision as to grades to make sure that it is acceptable. These difficulties add to the force of Mr. Gilbert's suggestion that it might be better to place the fountain south of the intersecting diagonals, in which case the ground about it could be graded up to a level and the drop to natural surface at the south side of the square masked by back-ground planting. Even if the location of the fountain is changed, I believe it would be better to simplify the outline of the basin, and certainly it is best in the line of travel at the intersection of the diagonal paths, the form ought to be very much simplified.

I suggest that the problem of redesigning the square in connection with the Noble Memorial be restudied with the above criticism in mind.

As a basis for such a study the map of the square which shows existing lines should be supplemented by exact figures of elevation showing the levels of the

surrounding curbs and sidewalks and the level of the ground at the base of each existing tree that is worth consideration."

Mr. Olmsted added the following confidential paragraph which I am adding merely for your information:

"It is inconceivable to me that any one should dare to assume the responsibility for the artistic and practical success of such a plan without this information because the practicability of shaping the ground surface agreeably and in harmony with other elements of this design is absolutely essential to a real success in landscape work. My fear is that this plan like some other park plans which have come before us for approval, does not really represent the deliberate and responsible judgment of its author as a professional landscape architect but is a mere general suggestion for the success of which in execution no one would be prepared to accept complete responsibility. Approval of a plan under such conditions by the Commission of Fine Arts merely loads a share of the floating and divided responsibility upon us."

W.C.

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W.C.

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Memorandum for Colonel Harts, personal representative of the Secretary of War, as to the suggestions of the Commission of Fine Arts regarding the revised design for the base and setting of the KEY MONUMENT which came before the Commission at their meeting on July 14, 1916.

Mr. Olmsted as the committee with power in the case prepared the following report:

"The Commission of Fine Arts approve the revised design for the base and setting of the Key monument subject to the restudy of the encircling stone seat with a view to making it more robust, and approve the revised plan for the setting of the monument accompanying it subject to question in regard to two points, viz:

1. The suggested architectural treatment on either side of the axis at the entrance to the park on the corners of Fort Avenue and Wallace street appears to extend beyond the limits of the additional park land designated for condemnation by the city upon a plan prepared by the Baltimore Topographical Survey, whereas there ought to be left a space for tree planting between this architectural treatment and the abutting private land.

2. The location of the monument at the point indicated introduces the necessity for a large amount of grading beyond the limits covered by the plan submitted; and, therefore, before finally approving the location and grade for the monument the Commission must have before it a complete grading plan showing all changes of grade which will be required in order to provide a thoroughly satisfactory setting including the construction of the proposed park roads centering upon the monument. Without such a plan approved both by the United States and the city of Baltimore, the erection of the monument in the proposed location might result either in leaving the monument with a permanently unsatisfactory setting or in forcing upon the city a larger amount of grading than it would knowingly wish to undertake. It is immaterial to the United States whether this grading plan is prepared by the designers of the monument with the advice and approval of the



Memorandum for Colonel Harbo, personal representative of the Secretary of War, as to the suggestions of the Commission of Fine Arts regarding the revised design for the base and setting of the MONUMENT which came before the Commission at their meeting on July 14, 1916.

Mr. Olmsted as the committee with power in the case prepared the following report:

"The Commission of Fine Arts approve the revised design for the base and setting of the key monument subject to the resurvey of the encircling stone wall with a view to making it more robust, and approve the revised plan for the setting of the monument accompanying it subject to question in regard to two points, viz:

1. The suggested architectural treatment on either side of the axis at the entrance to the park on the corners of Fort Avenue and Wallace Street appears to extend beyond the limits of the additional park land designated for condemnation by the city upon a plan prepared by the Baltimore Topographical Survey, whereas there ought to be left a space for free planting between this architectural treatment and the abutting private land.

2. The location of the monument at the point indicated introduces the necessity for a large amount of grading beyond the limits covered by the plan submitted; and, therefore, before finally approving the location and grade for the monument the Commission must have before it a complete grading plan showing all changes of grade which will be required in order to provide a thoroughly satisfactory setting including the construction of the proposed park roads centering upon the monument. Without such a plan approved both by the United States and the city of Baltimore, the erection of the monument in the proposed location might result either in leaving the monument with a permanently unsatisfactory setting or in forcing upon the city a larger amount of grading than it would knowingly wish to undertake. It is immaterial to the United States whether this grading plan is prepared by the designers of the monument with the advice and approval of the

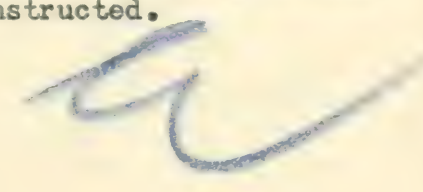
proper city authorities or by the proper city authorities in consultation with the designers of the monument, but as it involves work which will have to be done wholly by the city and is intimately connected with the general development of the park, it would seem reasonable that it should be prepared by the Baltimore Park Department."

1. Circular Drive (enclosed) to the site of the "Baptist" church to be reserved.
2. The same individual should be reserved.
3. Shall arrange the other ground adjoining the site.
4. Shall be reserved.
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proper city authorities or by the proper city authorities in consultation with the designers of the monument, but as it involves work which will have to be done wholly by the city and is intimately connected with the general development of the park, it would seem reasonable that it should be prepared by the Baltimore Park Department."

A plan of Montrose Park was submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts July 14, 1916 and the following remarks were made.

-oOo-

1. Paths leading to the foot of the hill are approved.
 2. Circular Privet Hedge (existing) at the end of the "Rope Walk" should be removed.
 3. Tool House (existing) should be removed.
 4. Small spruce and other plants existing near the Circle should be removed.
 5. Rough Hard Line of the Terrace should be smoothed out and returned to the original contour.
 6. Walk leading from the "Rope Walk" to the Circle should not be accented in any way by planting or otherwise. It should be made as inconspicuous as possible.
 7. An Archway should be made at the end of the "Rope Walk".
 8. A Path leading from the "Rope Walk" to the existing path down the hill should be constructed.
 9. A Path might be constructed above the Laurel bed.
 10. Terrace at the front of the Park should be pulled back to approximately the location of the old house.
 11. Perennial Garden might be retained but changed somewhat in design.
 12. Osage Orange Hedge along the "Rope Walk" should be allowed to grow into a tree form being clipped into arches so that there will be easy access into the park along the walk and the trees meet overhead in a thick mass.
 13. The Long Walk should be continued from the Circle to the street and not accented in any way.
 14. New Park Lodge - The approximate location is approved. The walks leading to it should be more carefully studied on the ground before being constructed.
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A plan of Montrose Park was submitted to the Commission of Fine

Arts July 14, 1912 and the following remarks were made.

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1. Paths leading to the foot of the hill are approved.
2. Circular River Hedge (existing) at the end of the "Rope Walk" should be removed.
3. Tool House (existing) should be removed.
4. Small spruce and other plants existing near the Circle should be removed.
5. Rough Hard Line of the Terrace should be smoothed out and returned to the original contour.
6. Walk leading from the "Rope Walk" to the Circle should not be accented in any way by planting or otherwise. It should be made as inconspicuous as possible.
7. An Archway should be made at the end of the "Rope Walk".
8. A Path leading from the "Rope Walk" to the existing path down the hill should be constructed.
9. A Path might be constructed above the Laurel bed.
10. Terrace at the front of the Park should be pulled back to approximately the location of the old house.
11. Perennial Garden might be retained but changed somewhat in design.
12. Open Grange Hedge along the "Rope Walk" should be allowed to grow into a tree form being clipped into arches so that there will be easy access into the park along the walk and the trees meet overhead in a thick mass.
13. The Loop Walk should be continued from the Circle to the street and not accented in any way.
14. New Gate Lodge - The approximate location is approved. The walks leading to it should be more carefully studied on the ground before being constructed.

Montrose Park Plan - Sheet 2:

15. One continuous Hedge should be across the front of the park

16. The existing Park Lodge should be torn down.

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Note:- As near as possible these points will be indicated
on a record drawing to be filed.

15. One continuous hedge should be across the front of the park
16. The existing Park Lodge should be torn down.

-000-

Note:- As near as possible these points will be indicated
on a record drawing to be filed.

July 18, 1916.

Colonel:

The Commission of Fine Arts have given careful consideration to your letter of May 13, transmitting several designs for the power house and intake house proposed for erection near Chain Bridge in connection with the Great Falls Waterpower Development project described in House Doc. 1400 - 62 - 3.

The Herschel design, however suitable in a more formal straight-line environment, seems unsuited to the site. The Norman design, with broken silhouette giving a frankly picturesque treatment which is better suited to its immediate surroundings, is nevertheless out of harmony with other public work in and around Washington; furthermore, certain features in this design appear to have no function in the working plan and are apparently brought in arbitrarily in the interest of a preconceived architectural effect.

The Commission cannot approve either design, and recommend at the proper time the appointment of a capable architect with instructions to design a powerhouse in the classic style, thus bearing the same stamp as other nearby public work but with avoidance of stiffness and undue formality. It is believed that by expressing in classic forms, freely interpreted, the essential functions of the building, a good designer will produce a design bearing the general character of other public work and harmonizing perfectly with its picturesque location.

By direction of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Lieut. Col. C. A. F. Flagler,
Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army,
In charge, United States Engineer Office,
Washington, D. C.



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374
4th Ind.

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Office, Q.M.G., May 27, 1916. - To the Secretary of War.

1. It is recommended that these papers be returned to the Fine Arts Commission with accompanying photographs of a number of selected monuments already erected in Arlington for further consideration in connection with the following suggestions of this office:

a. That rule #1, "Materials," be modified so as to permit monuments of medium rock faced surfaces similar to that shown by monument of Major Coffin, marked 9, it being the opinion of this office that such are not objectionable, but that glossily polished surfaces should not be permitted. However, it is thought that extreme rock surfaces similar to that shown by the Lee monument, marked 3, should not be permitted.

2. b. That rule #2 "Dimensions," should be modified by increasing the dimensions of monuments as follows:

From 3 feet to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in width, and 4 feet in height, below the rank of Major; from 4 feet to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height, between the grades of Major and Brigadier General; and in case of an officer above the rank of General, the height to be not more than 5 feet, instead of 4 feet. It is thought that to limit the height of monuments to 3 feet above the ground for all officers below the grade of Major would tend to give an effect which would be too flat and low. Photograph #7 shows a monument which is 3 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, which was one of the lowest that could be found. While this monument in itself is appropriate, it is thought that if a large number were of this height the appearance would not be pleasing. Photographs Nos. 1, 2, 5, 10, 15 and 17 are all above this height and are thought to be in good taste and appropriate to the surroundings.

HENRY G. SHARPE

Brigadier General, Quartermaster Corps,
Acting Quartermaster General.

TABjr/pk
24 Inclos.

5th Ind.

War Dept., May 29, 1916. -To the Fine Arts Commission, requesting action recommended by the Acting Quartermaster General of the Army in the preceding indorsement.

WM. M. INGRAHAM.

Assistant Secretary of War.



4th Ind.

Office, D.M.C., May 27, 1916. - To the Secretary of War.

1. It is recommended that these papers be returned to the War Department with accompanying photographs of a number of selected monuments already erected in Arlington for further consideration in connection with the following suggestions of this office:

2. That rule #1, "Materials," be modified so as to permit monuments of medium rock faced surfaces similar to that shown by monument of Major Griffin, marked 2, it being the opinion of this office that such are not objectionable, but that finely polished surfaces should not be permitted. However, it is thought that extreme rock surfaces similar to that shown by the Locke monument, marked 3, should not be permitted.

3. That rule #2 "Dimensions," should be modified by increasing the dimensions of monuments as follows:

From 3 feet to 3 1/2 feet in width, and 4 feet in height, below the rank of Major; from 4 feet to 4 1/2 feet in height, between the grades of Major and Brigadier General; and in case of an officer above the rank of General, the height to be not more than 5 feet, instead of 4 feet. It is thought that to limit the height of monuments to 5 feet above the ground for all officers below the grade of Major would tend to give an effect which would be too flat and low. Photograph #2 shows a monument which is 3 feet 1 1/2 inches high, which was one of the lowest that could be found. While this monument in itself is appropriate, it is thought that a large number were of this height the appearance would not be pleasing. Photographs Nos. 1, 2, 3, 10, 12 and 14 are all above this height and are thought to be in good taste and appropriate to the surroundings.

HENRY G. SHAFER

Brigadier General, Quartermaster Corps,
Acting Quartermaster General.

TAB 7/pk
24 Incls.

5th Ind.

War Dept., May 20, 1916. - To the War Department, requesting action recommended by the Acting Quartermaster General of the Army in the preceding letter.

W. M. LINDSAY

Assistant Secretary of War.

6th Ind.

The Commission of Fine Arts, July 22, 1916 - To the Secretary of War.

1. Returned.

2. With reference to the suggestions in paragraph 1 of the 4th indorsement, the Commission feel that the sample of finish on monument shown in photograph numbered 9 is not good, and that work of this kind should be prohibited.

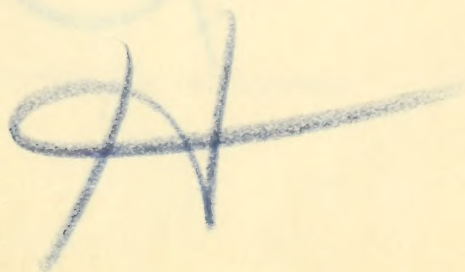
3. Regarding the suggestion in paragraph 2 as to a modification in the limitations suggested by the Commission in 2d indorsement, the Commission, after discussion of the changes proposed, adhere to their original recommendation. There is a marked difference between a monument 4 feet high and one 5 feet high, for the latter height so closely approaches the direct line of vision that it changes completely the proportions of a stone. As stated in 2d endorsement, the dimensions submitted by the Commission were tentative, but only insofar as working out of designs in accordance with these limitations might suggest modifications to the professional advisers referred to. The Commission wish to emphasize the importance of their recommendations made under sections II and III of the 2d indorsement, in order to have monuments of a high grade of design available for selection.

WM. W. HARTS.

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Lawrence Riggs, Esq.,
Baltimore, Maryland.

ABC



6th Ind.

The Commission of Fine Arts, July 22, 1916 - To the Secretary of War.

1. Returned.

2. With reference to the suggestions in paragraph I of the 4th Indorsement,

the Commission feel that the sample of finish on monument shown in photograph numbered 2 is not good, and that work of this kind should be prohibited.

3. Regarding the suggestion in paragraph 2 as to a modification in the

limitations suggested by the Commission in 2d Indorsement, the Commission, after discussion of the changes proposed, adhere to their original recommendation.

There is a marked difference between a monument 4 feet high and one 5 feet high, for the latter height so closely approaches the direct

line of vision that it changes completely the proportions of a stone. As

stated in 2d Indorsement, the dimensions submitted by the Commission were

tentative, but only insofar as working out of designs in accordance with

these limitations might suggest modifications to the professional advisers

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to have monuments of a high grade of design available for selection.

WM. W. HARTS.

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Colonel C. A. F. Flagler, United States Engineer Officer in charge of

The construction of the new Key Bridge to replace the Washington, D. C. Bridge
July 17, 1916.

across the Potomac at Georgetown was anxious to get the criticism of the Com-

My dear Mr. Riggs; preliminary sketch designs for that structure which had been

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held last Friday they
inspected the large model for the main sculptural composition of the Buchanan
Memorial, and the several plans submitted therewith.

The Commission approved the design as shown in the model, subject to a
few minor modifications that were pointed out at the time, as suitable for a
memorial to President Buchanan in Meridian Hill Park if Congress will grant
the use of that site for that purpose. This approval includes the treatment
of other matters that had also come up. Arrangements were made for the committee
of the basin, but does not include the scheme for the treatment of the en-
trance last shown on the plans submitted.

The Commission desire to assure you of their appreciation of your continued
courtesy and cooperation.

Very sincerely, yours,

John H. Hart

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Lawrason Riggs, Esq., Charles A. Platt, architect, of New York, who has been
Baltimore, Maryland.

ABC

Gen. Ind.

Washington, D. C.
July 17, 1916.

The Commission of Fine Arts, July 22, 1916 - to the Secretary of War.

I. Returned.

My dear Mr. Riggs;

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held last Friday they

inspected the large model for the main sculptural composition of the Buchanan

Memorial, and the several plans submitted therewith. A modification in the

The Commission approved the design as shown in the model, and subject to

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memorial to President Buchanan in Meridian Hill Park if Congress will grant

the use of that site for that purpose. This approval includes the treatment

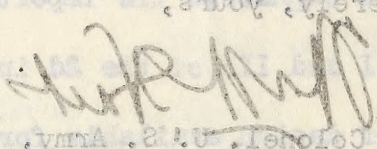
of the basin, but does not include the scheme for the treatment of the en-

trance as shown on the plans submitted.

The Commission desire to assure you of their appreciation of your continued

courtesy and cooperation.

Very sincerely, yours,



Secretary and Executive Officer.

W. W. Hart.

Lawson Riggs, Esq.,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Secretary and Executive Officer.

ABC